

SCOTTISH CASTLES

An Introduction to the Castles

of Scotland

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE



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HON. F.R.LA.S.

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CONTENTS

				Page
Foreword				ix
I. THE EARLIEST CASTLES .				I
II. CASTLES OF ENCEINTE .				б
III. THE EARLY TOWER HOUSES				IO
IV. BASTARD FEUDALISM AND	THE	LAT	ER	
Castles				14
V. The Later Tower Houses				17
VI, THE ROYAL PALACES .				19
VII. FIREARMS AND THE LATER	"Но	USE	OF	
Fence"			٠	20
VIII. THE SCOTTISH BARONIAL STY	LE			21
Some Outstanding Scottish Cas	TLES	-		24
BIBLIOGRAPHY				30



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATES

- I. Duffus Castle, Moray
- II. Cobbie Row's Castle, Orkney: interior of tower
- III. Kildrummy Castle, Aberdeenshire, from the air
- IV. Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfriesshire
- V. Affleck Castle, Angus
- VI. Borthwick Castle, Midlothian
- VII. Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian, palace and church from the air
- VIII. Claypotts, Angus
- IX. Noltland Castle, Westray, Orkney
 - X. Craigievar Castle, Aberdeenshire
- XI. Huntly Castle, Aberdeenshire
- XII. Earl's Palace, Kirkwall, Orkney

PLANS

- Dinning Motte, Closeburn, Dumfriesshire (motte and bailey)
 - Auldton Motte, Moffat, Dumfriesshire (motte and bailey)
- Cobbie Row's Castle, Wyre, Orkney Castle Sween, Argyll
- Kildrummy Castle, Aberdeenshire Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfriesshire

PLANS-(continued)

- 4. Bothwell Castle, Lanarkshire
- Rothesay Castle, Bute Inverlochy Castle, Inverness-shire Loch Doon Castle, Ayrshire
- 6. Lochleven Castle, Kinross-shire
- 7. Threave Castle, Kirkcudbrightshire
- 8. Elphinstone Tower, East Lothian
- Craigmillar Castle, Midlothian Affleck Castle, Angus
- 10. Tantallon Castle, East Lothian
- Doune Castle, Perthshire
 Ravenscraig Castle, Fife
- Borthwick Castle, Midlothian Greenknowe Tower, Berwickshire
- 13. Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian
- Scalloway Castle, Shetland Claypotts, Angus Glenbuchat Castle, Aberdeenshire
- Noltland Castle, Westray, Orkney Tolquhon Castle, Aberdeenshire
- 16. Earl's Palace, Kirkwall, Orkney

FOREWORD

THE Ancient Monuments Division of the Ministry of Works now has under its charge a considerable and representative -though not as yet a complete-series of the ancient castles which form so characteristic a feature of the Scottish scene. and are associated with so much of interest in the historical. legendary, and literary lore of the country. Carefully preserved, so far as this is possible, against further decay, and, in most cases, surrounded by well-tended purlieus, these ruined castles yearly attract more and more interest, not only from the Scottish public but from the numerous English and overseas visitors who every summer throng to our noble northern land. At most of these castles, Official Guide Books are provided, which will help the visitor to realise that such a building is something more than a mere romantic ruin, that it has much to tell us about the social life of those who built and dwelt in it. It is for such serious students-and the number increases every year-that the present handbook has been written. Its aim is simply to give those interested a general conspectus of the origin and development of the Scottish castle, so as to enable them to fit each individual structure which they visit into its proper place in the sequence.

Those who read this little book will come to realise that, small and poor as it has always been, Scotland yet possesses a distinctive castellated architecture, and one of which my nation might be proud.

For the sake of completeness, reference has had to be made to a number of castles not in the Ministry's custody. All those which are looked after by the Ancient Monuments Division are distinguished by having their names printed in italics.

For an introduction to the subject generally, reference should be made to the corresponding English handbook in this series—Castles—written by the late Mr. Bryan H. St. John O'Neil, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

W. Douglas Simpson.

King's College Old Aberdeen September 1958.

SCOTTISH CASTLES

I. The Earliest Castles

THE history of the Scottish castle begins in the twelfth century, when the powerful, far-seeing Kings of the Canmore dynasty began the process of integrating Scotland into the medieval state system of Western Europe, organising it as a strong feudal monarchy upon Anglo-Norman lines. Feudalism of the Norman pattern was a system by which ownership in land and responsibility for local government went hand in hand. Thus the castle of an Anglo-Norman landlord was much more than the gentleman's country house of modern times. In those unquiet ages it had of course to be a fortified country house; but it was more even than that, for it was also a centre of local government and military assembly. In his baron's court, the lord was empowered to deal justice among his tenants, alike in civil and criminal causes; and in the courtyard of the castle his tenantry gathered in arms when summoned to support him, either in his private quarrel or as the contingent due by him to the feudal army of the Crown, if he were a tenant in chief, or of his own superior if he were what was called a "mesne" tenant, holding his land from another baron greater in power than himself. In Scotland, from an early date, there was always a large number of small feudal tenants, and with the break up of the great ancient territorial lordships that followed the Wars of Independence their numbers increased even more. Each of these feudal lordlings, though he might hold no more than a few hundred acres, claimed the style of baron, and each had his fortified dwelling or castle. In England the fortification of squires' houses came to an end, broadly speaking, in the fifteenth century: but in the rowdy realm of Scotland every

laird had to maintain a "house of fence" for nearly two centuries longer. It is due to these two causes—the great number of lairds and the long history of the "house of fence" in a disorderly land, that Scotland is today, par excellence, the land of castles. Here, if anywhere, we may say with truth that

"Donjons, and towers, and castles grey Stand guardian by the winding way."

It is probably true that there are little less than 1000 castles of stone and lime still surviving, in whole or in part, throughout the length and breadth of the country; apart altogether from the remains of our earliest castles, which were made not of stone and lime but of timbered earthworks. Of the num-

bers of these latter castles, no census is available.

In Scotland there was no Norman conquest in the English sense. We should speak rather of a Norman penetration. Under the generous patronage of the Canmore kings, from David I onwards, large numbers of Anglo-Norman settlers migrated into Galloway, Lothian, the Central Lowlands and the north-eastern plains. Sometimes by Crown grants, at other times by marrying Celtic heiresses, they obtained extensive estates. Everywhere they introduced the feudal system, and its outward and visible symbol, the feudal castle -the private stronghold of a territorial magnate exercising devolved administrative and judicial authority over his tenantry. These castles were not the ponderous stone keeps of popular imagination. Even in England such costly structures were exceptional. The ordinary Norman castle was a thing not of stone and lime but of timbered earthwork-a moated mound crowned by a palisade enclosing a wooden tower. Often there was also a banked and palisaded courtyard sheltering the household buildings, likewise in wood. We may see pictures of these structures on the Bayeux Tapestry; and they were almost the only kind of castle that existed in Scotland during the Norman penetration in the twelfth century. The Norman name of them is a motte; where

a courtyard is attached, it is known as the bailey, and the entire construction may be described as a *motte* and bailey or a mount and bailey castle.

In those parts of Scotland which were settled by Norman landholders or held by Celtic chiefs who had adopted the new system, remains of these earthwork castles are found (Fig. 1). One of the finest is Duffus Castle, near Elgin (Plate I). This was the original seat of the de Moravia or Morav family, now represented by the ducal houses of Atholl and Sutherland. The earthwork remains are most impressive, and are unique in Scotland by reason of the wide outer precinct ditch, enclosing eight acres, which surrounds the castle. This is not in any sense a military work, but corresponds to the wall which surrounds the "policies" of a modern country house. There is a similar precinct enclosure at Pleshy Castle, in Essex. In the fourteenth century the bailey was walled in, and a ponderous stone tower, of very fine workmanship, was erected on the mount, which has slipped under its weight, splitting the tower in two. Within the wall of the bailey are remains of a hall, reconstructed in the fifteenth century. It has been said that Duffus Castle rises from the Laich o' Moray "like a boss upon a buckler", and certainly it is one of the most impressive things of its kind in Scotland.

One of the noblest ruins in the guardianship of the Ministry is Huntly Cattle, Aberdeenshire, the chief stronghold of the Gordons. Here the stately buildings erected by the "Cocks o' the North" stand amid the earthworks of a Norman motte and bailey castle on a grand scale, and the whole group of structures, in earthwork and in stone, presents an epitome of military construction from the twelfith to the seventeenth century. The story ends in earthwork as it began; for the latest addition to the defences, still well preserved, is a ravelin

of the Civil War period.

At Castle Urquhart on the shores of Loch Ness, Invernessshire, we have a large stone castle also constructed upon the earthworks of a mount-and-bailey. Here, as at Windsor Castle, there has been a double bailey. The motte occupies the site of a vitrified fort, dating from the prehistoric Iron Age. Parallel to the introduction of the Anglo-Norman baronage with their earthwork castles came the Anglo-Norman clergy bringing the Roman discipline and organisation, as they had developed on the soil of the old Empire during the centuries when Celtic Scotland was largely isolated from the European states-system. Gradually the country was divided up into parishes, each served by a parochial priest, and the parishes were grouped into dioceses, each presided over by a bishop. So alongside the feudal castle two new items, the parish church and the cathedral, were added to the Scottish scene. In many cases the parish was just the manor of a feudal baron, ecclesiastically considered, and the parish church began as the private chapel of the lord of the manor. That is why to this day in Scotland the remains of a Norman castle are so often found close beside the parish church. Church and castle, side by side, represent respectively the ecclesiastical and the civil nuclei of the early parochial organisation.

From the outset in England there existed, alongside the earthwork castles, a number of castles built in stone and lime. These were of course expensive structures, and, as a rule, could be afforded only by the kings or the greater barrows. Typically, such castles took the form of a great square tower—the Norman 'keepe' of writers from the sixteenth century onwards, though the older term for them was donjon, or simply "the great tower". The most famous of all these Norman keeps is, of course, the Tower of London. It was founded by William the Conqueror, and therefore belongs to the eleventh century. So do the keep of Colchester Castle, and one or two others: but the great building period of these stone keeps in England was in the twelfith century.

In Scotland, it was for long denied that any stone castles existed during the period of the Norman penetration. This is most unlikely, as the Normans were great builders in masonry, and it seems absurd to suppose that the noble patrons who founded such fine Norman cathedrals and abbeys as Kirkwall. Kelso or Dunfermiline, or rich parish

churches like Leuchars and Dalmeny, were not equally able to employ the same masons to house themselves in castles of stone. At Edinburgh Castle the rich little Norman chaple of St. Margaret still remains, and it can hardly be imagined that the powerful kings of the House of Canmore who erected it were incapable of building a stone tower and curatin on the castle rock. The Wars of Independence bore hard on our early stone castles, most of which were destroyed by the Scots themselves on their recapture from the Southron. Moreover, in the more central parts of the country early stone castles, even if they escaped destruction in the wars, tended to be rebuilt or replaced by structures of a newer fashion. It is in the remoter parts of the country, unaffected by the English wars and less influenced by changes in fashion, that we should expect to find the most ancient stone castles in Scotland.

In point of fact, the oldest datable Scottish castle of stone is in a part of the country which, when it was built, did not belong to Scotland at all. Until 1468 the northern islands belonged to Norway; and the Orkneyinga Saga tells us how about 1145 a Norse chief, Kolbein Hruga, built a fine stone castle (steinkastala) in Wyre, a small island in the Orkneys. Here there still survives the stump of a small rectangular tower, enclosed in a circular ditch, and associated with later buildings (Fig. 2, Plate II). The name of the founder, in a corrupted form-"Cobbie Row's Castle"-is still attached to the ruin: and close beside it is the twelfth century chapel of St. Mary, now in ruins, Excavation failed to yield traces of any earlier structure on the site of the present castle, and there can be little doubt that the existing remains represent the steinkastala. In their own country, the Norsemen of the twelfth century were well up to building stone castles, as the recent excavations at King Sverre's, near Trondheim have shown. And in Orkney itself, the stately Norman Cathedral of St. Magnus teaches us that the Norse Jarls of the Northern Isles were able to command the services of masons of the highest status, drawn from the great centres of ecclesiastical architecture: for it is clear, on stylistic grounds, that the master

mason who designed Kirkwall Cathedral was brought hither from Durham.

Another twelfth century castle survives in an outlying part of Scotland, likewise under Norse control at the time of its construction. At Castle Sween, in Knapdale, Argyllshire, we find what appears to be, typologically considered, the earliest stone castle in Scotland (Fig. 2). It is said to have been built by Dougall, third chief of Craignish, early in the thirteenth century, and the main structure presents the appearance of a gutted Norman keep, with large pilaster and angle buttersess. The round-arched doorway, placed in one of these pilasters, reminds one of the so called "few's House" in Lincoln. A great oblong tower-house, with pointed loopholes, and a cylindrical angle tower, are later additions. This castle was destroyed by Collistio Macdonald in 1645.

II. Castles of Enceinte

During the thirteenth century—the "Golden Age" of Alexander II and III—stone castles began to be common in Scotland. The finest castles of this prosperous era, such as Dirleton, Kildnummy (Fig. 3, Plate III), Bothwell (Fig. 4), and Caerlaverock (Fig. 3, Plate III), Bothwell (Fig. 4), and Caerlaverock (Fig. 3, Plate III), are beautifully built of dressed ashlar, and have large round towers flanking cutrain walls enclosing a courtyard. The walls and towers together are known as the enceinte: usually one tower is larger than the others, and forms the keep or donjon. Generally this tower is placed at the remotest corner of the enceinte. Within the latter are the domestic buildings—hall, kitchen, "solar" or lord's suite, chapel and so forth—and these also are, as a rule, placed on the side of the courtyard furthest from the entrance—always the point of danger in a castle.

Probably the finest of our thirteenth century castles of enceinte has been Bothwell—though the original scheme



PLATE I. Duffus Castle



PLATE II. Cobbie Row's Castle: interior of tower



PLATE III. Kildrummy Castle, from the air

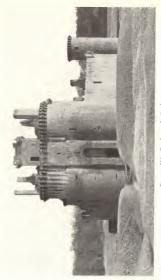


PLATE IV. Caerlaverock Castle



PLATE V. Affleck Castle



PLATE VI. Borthwick Castle



PLATE VII. Linlithgow Palace and St. Michael's Church, from the air

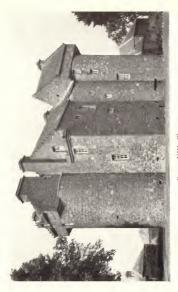


PLATE VIII. Claypotts





(Country Life photo)

PLATE X. Craigievar Castle



PLATE XI. Huntly Castle Rennaissance Fireplace in Upper Hall



PLATE XII. Earl's Palace, Kirkwall

appears never to have been completed, and one half of its great donjon was thrown into the Clyde when the castle was dismantled by the Scots in 1336. This splendid tower, beautifully built of fine polished ashlar, with rich Gothic detail, is isolated from the castle courtyard by its own proper moat. In this respect it recalls the now destroyed French Chateau de Coucy. At Kildrummy Castle the internal arrangements of the donjon closely recalled those of Coucy; and it cannot be without significance that Alexander II, in whose reign Kildrummy Castle was founded, married, in 1239, Marie de Coucy, the daughter of the builder of the great French chateau. Kildrummy is perhaps the most complete example of an elaborately constructed thirteenth century castle of enceinte. Its curtain walls, with four round towers, in greater or less preservation, the hall and the chapel with its threelight Gothic window, belong in substance to the original fabric. The great gatehouse is an addition of Edward I's time, and there is evidence that it was erected by the famous Savoyard architect, James of St. George, who designed Edward's great castles in North Wales, such as Conway, Caernarvon, and Harlech. Kildrummy-justly hailed as the "noblest of northern castles"-was the ancient seat of the Earls of Mar. It played a memorable part in Scottish history from the Wars of Independence until the "Fifteen", when it was dismantled.

The shell of another fine thirteenth century castle remains at Rothesay in Bute (Fig. 5), the cradle of the Royal Stewarts. Here the eneinte is circular, with four round towers, and both walls and towers are faced with fine ashlar. In this castle we have preserved the original parapet, with its battlements, all sealed up, like a fossil, as it were, in a subsequent heightening of the wall. The great forework is an addition of the sixtenth century, and we shall have to consider it later in its own context. Inside the courtyard, the only feature that now bulks large is the chapel, which also is of late date. In 1230 Rothesay Castle stood a notable siege by the Norsemen, who hewed their way through the wall with ases. "for the stone hewed their way through the wall with ases."

was soft". The east curtain shows signs of much disturbance and partial rebuilding, and here, no doubt, the Norwegians made their breach.

On the western seaboard of Scotland-a region remote (as we saw) from the causes of destruction or rebuilding-we find an interesting and well preserved group of thirteenth century castles of enceinte, not all yet in the custody of the Ministry of Works. This group of castles represents the advent of the power of the feudal monarchy on the threshold of the Hebrides, prior to the conquest of these after the victory at Largs in 1263. The most famous, and most accessible of these, is Dunstaffnage, near Oban in Argyllshire. Here the walls of enceinte and round towers are all in good preservation. The architectural detail points to a midthirteenth century date, and close beside the castle is the ruined chapel, one of the loveliest gems of First Pointed Gothic in all Scotland. At Inverlochy Castle, Fort William, Inverness-shire (Fig. 5), we have a simple massive quadrangular enceinte with round towers, one of which forms the donjon. In the other castles of this western group, Mingary, on the Point of Ardnamurchan, Argyllshire, and Castle Tioram, on an island in Loch Moidart, Inverness-shire, the nature of the rocky site did not permit of towers, and so we have the enceinte castle in its simplest form, consisting of a plain multangular curtain wall. The same primitive form, but associated with the finest ashlar masonry and Gothic detail, is to be found in the island castle of Loch Doon (Fig. 5), which stood a famous siege in 1335. When the water level in Loch Doon was raised to serve a hydro-electric scheme, this beautiful ashlar work, perhaps the finest secular masonry of the thirteenth or early fourteenth century in Scotland, was transported by the Ministry of Works, stone by stone, and re-erected on the mainland.

A great rubble-built curtain wall of the thirteenth century forms the oldest part of *Balvenie Castle*, Dufftown, Banfshire. This was the ancient castle of Mortlach, a stronghold of the Comvns, visited by Edward I in 1303, Outside the wall is a

most impressive rock-cut ditch. The masonry of this curtain wall closely resembles that of another famous Comyn castle. Lochindorb in Badenoch, Inverness-shire-later the chief stronghold of the "Wolf of Badenoch". This castle dates from about the end of the thirteenth century and illustrates the omission at this time of the donjon or keep. The purely passive idea of defence embodied in the donion theme began now to give way to a more active, aggressive conception centred on the gatehouse, which tended to become the most important defensive feature of the castle, forming a complete self-contained residence for the Lord or castellan, who thus had the weakest point in the castle under his direct control. Structures of this kind may therefore be described as "keep-gatehouses". The Edwardian gatehouse at Kildrummy already mentioned, was of this type, and another such is known to have been built by Master James of St. George at Linlithgow in 1304. The remains of a third still survive, embodied in a later tower-house, at the royal castle of Dundonald in Ayrshire.

Another feature characteristic of the late thirteenth century is the tendency to reduce the courtyard area, until this finally becomes a mere close girt around by a cluster of towers—the whole now forming the donjon or lord's residence, and being usually associated with an outer court and quarters for the general household. This clustered donjon type is well illustrated at Dirleton in East Lothian, where the thirteenth century remains are again characterised by the fine quality of

the ashlar masonry.

Before leaving the subject of our stone cardes dating from before or during the struggle for independence, notice must be taken of two examples which were never of the enezinte plan. At Hailes in East Lothian, we have what is not so much a cardle as a fortified manor house, which as originally built must have resembled the well known Aydon Castle in Northumberland. Significantly, Hailes was built by the Gourlay family, who held much land in Northumberland. And at Yester in the same shire, on a mount-and-bailey size. a stone donjon with a "marvellous souterrain, wonderfully constructed" is known to have been erected by the lord of the manor, Hugh Gifford, who died in 1267. This souterain, with its massive ribbed vault, beautifully built of ashlar work, still remains, and is one of the finest pieces of sealar architecture, dating from before the War of Independence, which survives in Scotland. On one side a ribbed and vaulted passage conducts down to a well, and on the other a similar passage leads to a postern gate opening in the steep bank upon which the castle is built.

III. The Early Tower Houses

In Scotland the first half of the fourteenth century was taken up with the two long and desolating Wars of Independence. It is a time of which the chroniclers tell us far more about the casting down of castles than about their building up. Not until the end of the century did the country begin to recover from the devastating effects of the long wars. Comparatively few castles were built during this unhappy period: and these for the most part take the form of simple rectangular tower-houses-reverting in principle to the old Norman keep. The typical medieval house consisted of a central hall, with kitchen and offices at its lower end, and the owner's private rooms at the upper. Sir Walter Scott has given us a vivid picture of this type of house in his description of Rotherwood, Cedric the Saxon's dwelling in Ivanhoe. Where defensive considerations have controlled the plan, the rooms, instead of being extended horizontally, are piled on top of one another, so as to form a tower-house-exemplified in the same novel by Front-de-Boeuf's Norman keep of Torquilstone. The tower-house is thus nothing else than a specialised form of the normal medieval hall-house, upended for reasons of security. In Scotland, with its longcontinued history of unsettlement, foreign and domestic war, the tower-houses found especial favour as the simplest and cheapest form in which a landowner, be he a great baron or a small laird, could provide himself with a dwelling at once strong in itself, suitable to his domestic needs, and with its brow-beating height flaunting his social pride. No other country in the world has rung the changes more thoroughly on the tower-house theme. Successively modified to suit improved domestic standards and altered conditions of defence, the Scottish tower-houses, by their ingenuity of design and effectiveness of aspect, represent a distinctive and valuable contribution to the general achievement of medieval architecture.

Three of the finest of our fourteenth century tower-houses are Lochleven Castle, Kinross-shire (Fig. 6), Dundonald Castle, Avrshire, and Threave Castle, Kirkcudbrightshire (Fig. 7). Lochleven Castle stood a notable siege in 1335, but the existing tower-house dates from later in the century. It contains five storeys, and the entrance, reached only by a ladder, is on the second floor, Such tower-houses usually had appended to them a courtyard enclosed by a curtain wall-all, however, on a much smaller scale than the great thirteenth century enceintes. The Scottish name for such an appended courtyard is a barmkin. At Lochleven the barmkin wall is well preserved, with a round tower added in the sixteenth century. A small part of the barmkin wall may be a remnant of the castle besieged by the English in 1335. Lochleven Castle is famous all the world over as the scene of the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, in 1567.

The royal castle of Dundonald contains a very large rectangular tower-house, which is of particular interest as it embodies the stump of an Edwardian keep-gatehouse. The reconstruction can be identified by heraldic and other evidence as the work of Robert II, the first Stewart King (1371-90). The barmkin wall survives, and the whole structure stands impressively on a hill top, girt by the ramparts of a prebistoric dun. The great tower of Threave Caule was built towards the end of the fourteenth century by Archibald the Grim, third Earl of Douglas and Lord of Galloway. It is perhaps the most impressive thing of its kind in Scotland, and gains enormously in effect by its site on an island in the River Dee. Here also the barmkin wall is well-preserved. It is known to have been constructed in the panic that followed the disaster of Flodden.

One of the earliest of these tower-houses in Scotland forms the oldest portion of Drum Castle, Aberdeenshire, since 1323 the seat of the Irvine family. The tower was the chief place of the old royal forest of Drum, and there are details which suggest that it may have been already in existence by the year 1300. In Aberdeenshire also is the similar but now ruined tower of Hallforest, the hunting seat of the royal forest of Kintore. David II was here on more than one occasion.

A house consisting of four storeys of single rooms, one on top of the other, reached by a ladder to a door on an upper floor, and for internal communication possessing but a single spiral stair, may be strong, but is not convenient. Very soon, therefore, we find the Scottish builders endeavouring to provide a certain degree of family privacy by hollowing out their massive walls into a series of mural closets. The greater the degree to which this practice was carried out, the later will be the tower-house. In the fifteenth century, the wall, which externally presents an appearance of plain massive strength, may thus come to conceal a perfect labyrinth of mural stairs and closets. The two finest examples of this peculiarity are Comlongan Castle, Lord Mansfield's seat in Dumfriesshire, and the Tower of Elphinstone in Midlothian (Fig. 8). In some of the larger towers of this century, the architectural detail, such as enriched fireplaces, aumbries or wall-presses, and such like, can be very fine. A good example is Cardoness Castle in Kirkcudbrightshire.

The Scottish master-masons were not long content with their endeavour to provide private accommodation by hollowing out wall chambers within the mass of their rectangular towers. Before the end of the fourteenth century they hit on the idea of building the tower with a wing-Scotice, a jam-appended to a long side of the main building. Thus we have what may be called the L-plan. This plan gave a lot of what was chiefly wanted, namely, private accommodation, since the rooms in the wing did not need to be as high as the lofty halls in the main structure, and therefore there could be five or six storeys of private rooms in the jam corresponding to the three or four storeys in the main portion. Not only that, but the new plan also provided a very strong position for the doorway, in the "re-entrant angle", as it is called-tucked in, so to speak, between the projecting limbs of the building. Hence in these L-towers the doorway is commonly brought down to ground levelanother gain in comfort.

One of the finest fourteenth century L-towers forms the kernel of the famous Castle of Craigmillar near Edinburgh (Fig. 9). Another, of about the same date, is at Dunnottar Castle in the Mearns. Much ingenuity is displayed in the plans of such tower-houses. That maxim of all good planning, that "the container should be equal to the contained"-the required accommodation being achieved without waste space and without overcrowding or awkwardness-was thoroughly understood by our old-time Scottish architects. One of the most masterly examples of such planning in an L-tower, on quite a small scale, can be studied at Affleck

Castle, in Angus, near Dundee (Fig. 9, Plate V).

In all such towers-as indeed generally in the medieval castle, whatever its plan-defence was conducted mainly from the wall-head. This was crowned by a "crenellated" parapet-i.e., the wall was broken up into alternate voids and solids, embrasures from which the archer shot, and merlons behind which he sheltered while re-loading his crossbow. It is a simple parapet of this kind which is sealed up in later work at Rothesay Castle (see p. 7). Another fine early parapet of the same time remains unaltered on the Tower of Drum. In time of war, extra command of the ground at the foot of the castle was sometimes provided by oversailing timber hoardings. The putlog holes for such a war-head may still be seen at Rothesay. In the fifteenth century, it became customary to crown the castle with a stone oversailing corbelled parapet, a machicolation or open space being left between each pair of corbels, through which missiles or heated liquids could be cast down upon the assailants. These fifteenth century machicolated parapets provide a most effective feature in some of our Scottish towers, for example at Comlongan. At Craignillar Castle a curtain wall with angle towers, all machicolated in this way, was drawn round the tower-house early in the fifteenth century. Fine machicolated towers form a prominent feature in the fifteenth century reconstructions of Bothwell Castle, Lanarkshire, and of Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfriesshire. St. Machar's Cathedral in Aberdeen has its twin western towers fortified in this way.

IV. Bastard Feudalism and the later Castles

It is a mistake to imagine a medieval eastle as constantly manned by an alert garrison, armed to the teeth. When the lord was in residence it would contain his familia or household, doubtless including, in a large establishment, a few men-at-arms. In his absence there might be no one cles than a caretaker. Should war approach the castle walls, the garrison would be provided from the lord's feudal tenantry, called up for the purpose. In some of the greater castles, a tenant might hold his land by "castle-guard", being bound to provide the garrison, say for a particular tower. At Dover Castle, for instance, some of the towers still retain the names of the tenants so charged with their defence. Under the feudal system, a tenant was normally required to provide not more than forty days' military service each year. Short-term, un-

trained levies of this sort became increasingly inadequate to sustain the great conflicts of the later Middle Ages, such as the Wars of Scottish Independence and the Hundred Years War in France. War, in fact, was now becoming a scientific business, for which a professional, highly-trained soldiery was required. Hence everywhere in the later Middle Ages the kings and the greater barons betook themselves to the practice of commuting the military service due by their tenants for monetary payments, or payments in kind that could be converted into money; and with the ready cash thus available they hired professional soldiers. It was largely with such soldiers that Edward III and Henry V conducted their campaigns in France. At home, it was with private armies so enlisted that the overmighty barons of England fought each other to death in the Wars of the Roses, and their Scottish contemporaries kept their country in chronic uproar by their incessant feuds among themselves, and their struggles to obtain control of the feeble monarchs of the Stewart House. To this new kind of feudalism of the later Middle Ages-an illegitimate offspring (as it were) of the genuine article-the name of Bastard Feudalism has been applied.

Upon the eastle plan, bastard feudalism exercised a profound influence. Quarters had now to be found for a standing mercenary garrison; and these lanzbuechts were apt to be awkward and indeed sometimes dangerous neighbours, lacking the natural fidelity of the feudal tenant to his overlord. Two things therefore were necessary. Barrack quarters must be found for the mercenaries; and the lord must provide himself with a self-contained residence for his own person and his familia, having the entrance to the castle under his personal control.

In the Edwardian keep-gatchouses we have already noted the beginnings of this development. It was arrested in Scotland by the troubles of the fourteenth century, during which, as we saw, not many new castles on a large scale were built. But the end of that century saw the erection of one or two major castles which illustrate very clearly the impact of bastard feudalism on castellar construction. Earliest of these—in existence by the year 1374—is the mighty castle of the Douglases at Tantallon, in East Lothian (Fig. 10). Its principal feature is the vast curtain wall, spanning the promontory from cliff to cliff, and resting at either cad on a powerful cylindrical tower. In the middle is the gatchouse, which serves also as a residence, well appointed and well secured, for the lord or castellan. Inside the castle are not one but two great halls, one above the other. The lower of these is fitted up as a mess room for the garrison, the upper is a festal hall of the traditional pattern. One of the grandest ruins in Scotland, Tantallam Castle is famous not only in the sober page of history but also in the romantic verse of Scott's Marquion.

A little later than Tantallon is Doune Castle in Menteith, Perthshire (Fig. 11), the great stronghold of the all-powerful Dukes of Albany, built in the closing years of the fourteenth century. Here, in striking contrast to such an earlier castle as Kildrummy, the weight and mass of the structure are no longer reserved, but are brought forward and concentrated on the front line. Upon this, all the principal buildings are deployed: behind, the castle tails off into a mere screen wall, and there is no "great tower" or donion, isolated in a corner like those of Bothwell and Kildrummy, Instead, we have in the forefront of the castle a complete, self-contained structure, forming a separate habitation for the lord or governor, and including the well secured entrance, which is thus under the lord's personal control. This composite structure-gatehouse and lord's residence in combination-is quite separate from a suite of domestic buildings, hall, kitchen, and the rest, also forming part of the frontal mass, yet having no communication with the lord's residence, and obviously apportioned to the general body of the garrison or retainers.

With this splendid castle we reach the highest achievement of perfected castellar design in Scotland. In this respect, it strongly recalls the contemporary Chateau de Pierrefonds

in France.

The great forework added by James IV and James V to the ancient enceinte of Rothesay Castle illustrates the same theme. It combines a strongly planned gatehouse with a fine suite of royal apartments.

One of the most interesting of the later Scottish castles is Ravensraig in Fife (Fig. 11). This was built by James II spart of a scheme of coastal defence: and in the Exchequer Rolls the building accounts are in part preserved. Work was begun in 1460, but the building was left uncompleted at the King's death three years later. Ravensraig is of great interest, because it was apparently the first castle in Britain to be designed for systematic defence by cannon.

V. The Later Tower-Houses

Apart from such large and exceptional structures as Tantallut, Doume, and Ravensraig, the majority of the castles built in later medieval Scothand were designed upon the traditional tower-house plan. Whether of the simple rectangular pattern, or built with a jam on the L-plan, these Scottish towers display an almost inexhaustible variety of design, and strikingly reveal the resource and pliancy of their architects. Some of the largest, like the great rectangular tower added in the fifteenth century to the palace of the Bishops of Moray at Spynie, near Elgin, or the massive L-tower of Auchindoms Cochran, the ill-starred favourite of James III, reach the scale of a good-sized Norman keep.

At Edzell Castle, Angus, the stronghold of the Lindsays of Glenesk, we have a fine Letwer of the early sixteenth century. Here the jam is devoted to the spiral staircase. Contemporary with the tower at Edzell, and resembling it in some of its architectural features, though differing in design, is the

remarkable tower which forms the kernel of Craignethan Castle, Lanarkshire—the Tillietudlem of Scott's Old Mortality.

By far the finest Scottish tower-house is Borthwick Castle in Midlothian (Fig. 12, Plate VI). The licence to build it was granted in 1430. This majestic castle is executed with a beauty of masonry and richness of design unsurpassed in any like structure in the British Isles. It is entirely built of stone. vaulted in all its height, and the stone-slabbed roof rests directly on the uppermost vaults. The weight of this tower has been computed at not less than 20,000 tons; of this, 12,000 tons are accounted for by the ashlar work with which all the surfaces, inside and out, are cased. The splendid machicolated parapet, with its angle turrets, lends a most imposing aspect to the building. Borthwick Castle is remarkable in that it has not one but two jams, both on the same side, so that the plan comes to resemble the letter E. with the middle bar struck out. On the main floor, the central building contains the great hall: at its lower end is the kitchen in one of the jams, while the "solar" or lord's room opening from the dais end of the hall, occupies the other. Thus with great skill, advantage is taken of its elaborate plan to recover, in a tower-house, the normal horizontal disposition of the medieval hall-house plan. Borthwick Castle, which is still inhabited, was besieged by Cromwell in 1650. "If you necessitate me to bend my cannon against you," tersely wrote the Lord Protector, "you may expect what I doubt you will not be pleased with." The result is seen today in a great gash which disfigures the ashlar masonry on the east front.

The numerous tower-houses on the L-plan built up and down the country for the lairds, or smaller barons, during the sixteenth century present a subject of inexhaustible charm and interest. The flexibility shown in their planning is truly remarkable. A favourable example is Greenknowe Tower in Berwickshire (Fig. 12), dated 1581. Here the jam is occupied by the main stair as far as the first floor, but above this it contains private rooms, and both these and the upper rooms

of the main house are served by a turret stair in the re-entrant angle. This tower still retains its iron yett, the bars of which have their mode of intersection reversed in opposite quarters, a mode of construction peculiar to Scotland.

VI. The Royal Palaces

It was in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, under the later Stewarts, that the royal palaces-Edinburgh Castle, Holyroodhouse, Stirling Castle, Linlithgow Palace (Fig. 13. Plate VII), and Falkland Palace, assumed their present form. In these buildings, as might be expected, we find evidence, both documentary and in the fabric, for the employment of French craftsmen. At Edinburgh Castle, the great hall, with its hammer-beam roof, dates from the early sixteenth century. At Stirling, Cochran's Hall, built by the unlucky favourite of James III, has been, perhaps, the finest thing of its kind in Scotland; while the royal apartments, erected by French masons, are an early and quaint example of Renaissance architecture. The only medieval portion still surviving at Holyroodhouse is the tower built by James IV. It much resembles the gatehouse tower at Falkland Palace. In the ruined east wing of the latter building we can again study the handiwork of French sculptors. The Palace of Linlithgow remains, roofless indeed, but otherwise intact, as the finest example of late medieval planning in Scotland. Although the existing fabric dates from several building periods extending between the fourteenth and the seventeenth centuries, it displays surprising uniformity in design. Its situation, overlooking the loch, remains in all its unspoiled beauty, and the great fifteenth century town's kirk, which closely adjoins it, combines with the Palace to form a group of medieval architecture unsurpassed in Scotland.

VII. Firearms and the Later "House of Fence"

In Ravenscraig Castle, 1460-3, we have seen a fortalice systematically designed for defence by "falconets" or small cannon. Cannon, however, were a prerogative of the Crown, and it was not until hand-guns came into general use during the sixteenth century that provision for firearms began to be introduced in the "houses of fence". The effect upon their plan was immediate and striking. Hitherto, as we saw, defence for a tower-house was mainly from its war-head-i.e., it was conducted in a vertical plane: and so our old Scottish towers are, in general, tall and narrow of aspect. But now, when the possibility of flanking defence by handguns at ground level became apparent the problem of defence revolved through a quadrant, from the vertical to the horizontal plane. Immediately the castle plan begins to undergo a lateral expansion, as the opportunities are realised of defending the main structure by jams or wings no longer set out at right angles but diagonally, or en échelon to use the military phrase. Thus the old L-plan is replaced by a towerhouse with a wing set out diagonally at one corner, so as to command, with gunloops, two sides of the main building. Blairfindy Castle, Banffshire, and Scalloway Castle in Shetland (Fig. 14) are examples of this plan, which may be described as a "two-stepped" castle. From this stage, the next development was obvious: to build the "house of fence" with not one, but two, flanking towers, echeloned at diagonally opposite corners. Each tower covers two faces of the main structure, and the latter in its turn covers the towers, so that it is impossible to approach such a castle from any quarter whatever without coming under fire. Not only this, but the flanking towers provided a great deal of private accommodation, at a time when, with improved social standards, this was increasingly in demand; and the jams being set diagonally to the main house did not interfere so much with its lighting

as if they had been built out straight from one face. Thus the "three-stepped" or Z-plan became a very favourite one in Scotland, and upwards of sixty examples are known, mostly in the North East. A remarkable example, near Dundee, is Claypotts, Angus (Fig. 14, Plate VIII). It bears the dates 1560 and 1588. Here the two towers are round, but are corbelled out to the square above in a remarkably picturesque manner. The ground floor is well provided with wide mouthed gunloops, Glenbuchat Castle, Aberdeenshire (Fig. 14), dated 1590, is a fine example with square towers. Here the stair turrets are supported, not on the usual corbelling, but by trompes or squinch arches in the French manner. Muness Castle in Unst. Shetland-the most northerly castle in Britain -is a Z-building, dated 1598, with round towers. But the most remarkable of our Z-castles is Noltland in Westray, an island of the Orkneys (Fig. 15, Plate IX). Here the towers are square, and the walls all round are pierced with tiers of gunloops, giving the castle the semblance of some ancient man o' war's hull. No other British castle exhibits provision for firearm defence on anything like such a scale. The picturesque castle of Tolguhon, in Aberdeenshire (Fig. 15), built (except for the "Auld Tour") between 1584 and 1589, is an interesting example of the Z-plan applied to a courtyard castle.

VIII. The Scottish Baronial Style

Scottish castellated architecture reaches its climax about the turn of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Much of the landed property of the ancient church had fallen into the lands of the lairds, and their new-found wealth expressed itself in an outburst of building. More settled internal conditions, and the end of wars with England after the Union of the Crowns, were also circumstances favourable to fine architecture. So the ornate castellated mansions of this latest

period such as Glamis, Fyvie, Castle Fraser, Midmar and Craigievar (Pater X), with their regal coronets of pointed turrets and crow-stepped gables and their riotous profusion of corbelling, form a group of buildings of which any nation might be proud. Although these castles are often described as of French origin, they are in fact purely native in plan and style, and the master-masons, where their names are on record, are always Scotsmen.

It was not until this late period that Scotland as a whole began to respond to the influence of the Renaissance. Now at last, neo-classical motives began to appear on dormer windows, finials, and such like external details, and in the plaster work and other interior decoration. Painted ceilings now became common: the Ministry of Works has good examples in its charge at Huntingtower, Perthshire, Culross Palace, Fife, and Kinneil House, West Lothian. Nithsdale's building in Caerlaverock Castle, dating from 1638, is a pure and exquisite specimen of the early Classical Renaissance. Foreign masons were now employed by some of the greater barons, as well as by the kings. At Crichton Castle, Midlothian, we have a diamonded Italianate facade, obviously inspired by the Palazzo dei Diamanti at Verona, and the Italian connexion is supported by the builder, Earl Bothwell's known association with that country. The great row of oriel windows at Huntly Castle, Aberdeenshire, recalls those at Blois, and it is known that a French mason worked for the first Marquis of Huntly, who reconstructed his castle between 1600 and 1604 (Plate XI). And at Edzell Castle, Angus, we have a unique decorated garden wall, dated 1604, with sculptured representations of the Cardinal Virtues, the Liberal Arts, and the Planetary deities. These are of German origin, and their presence here is explained by ascertained facts in the history of the builder. Lord Edzell

Of all the castellated buildings belonging to this latest period in old Scottish secular architecture, by far the most accomplished is the Earl's Palace at Kirkwall, in the Orkneys (Fig. 16, Plate XII). The great array of oriel and bay windows

shows that the master mason had a scholarly acquaintance with French architecture: nevertheless the detail is purely native, and there is no reason to doubt that the architect was a Scotsman.

The blight of Calvinism, and the outbreak of the long and crued wars of religion, nipped in the bud this tender blossom of the Scottish Renaissance, and put an end, for a full generation, to the art of fine building. After the Restoration in 1660, more settled conditions returned, but the old generation of master masons had died out, and the way was thereby opened for the pure Classical Renaissance, exemplified in such stately palaces as Drumlanrig Castle, Dumfriesshire, Kinross House, Kinross-shire, and the main portion of the Palace of Holyrood-house. In the houses of the country lairds, however, and in the burghs, the old building traditions survived, more and more feebly, until as late as the eighteenth century. Among the town houses of the lairds, the finest are Argyll's Lodging, Stirling, the Palace of Culross, Fife, and Provost Skene's House in Aberdeen, recently well restored by the city corporation.

SOME OUTSTANDING SCOTTISH CASTLES

Only one important part of the structure of a castle is necessarily relevant to the group in which it is included (sometimes a castle of several periods is included in more than one group). Castles italicised are under the care of the Ministry of Works and are normally open to visitors daily. Many of the others are scheduled Ancient Monuments; others yet are still inhabited:

The intending visitor to Ancient Monuments should consult the Illustrated Guide to Ancient Monuments, vol. VI, Scotland (see Bibliography).

Mottes and Motte and Bailey Castles (page 2)

Huntly Castle	Aberdeenshire
Doune of Invernochty, Strathdon	27
Bass of Inverurie	**
Peel of Lumphanan	**
Tillydrone, Motte-Hill	**
Achadunan Motte, near Lochgilphead	Argyll
Auldton Motte, Moffat	Dumfriesshire
Barntalloch Motte, Langholm	
Motte of Dinning, Closeburn	10
Tinwald Motte	**
Wamphray Motte	
Maiden Castle, Windygates, Markinch	Fife
Urquhart Castle	Inverness-shire
Balmaclellan Motte	Kirkcudbrightshire
Boreland Motte, near Kirkcudbright	10
Dalry Motte	19
Ingleston Motte, near New Abbey	

Motte of Urr Kirkcudbrightshire
Carnwath Motte Lanarkshire
Cauler, Motte Hill
Duffus Caule
Hawick Motte
Ardwell Motte
Droughdool Motte, near Dunragit
Druchtag Motte, Mochrum
High Dummore Motte, Kirkmaiden

Stone castles of the 12th or early 13th century (page 5)

Castle Sween, Knapdale Argyll
Castle of Old Wick Caithness
Cobbie Row's Castle, Isle of Wyre Orkney

Castles of Enceinte, mostly 13th century (page 6)

Kildrummy Castle Aberdeenshire Dunstaffnage Castle, near Oban Argyll Mingary Castle, Ardnamurchan Loch Doon Castle Avrshire Banffshire Balvenie Castle, Dufftown Rothesay Castle Bute Auchencastle, near Beattock Dumfriesshire Caerlaverock Castle Tibbers Castle, near Carronbridge Dirleton Castle Fast Lothian Castle Tioram, Loch Moidart Inverness-shire Inverlochy Castle, Fort William Kiessimul Castle, Barra Roy Castle, Nethybridge Kincardineshire Kincardine Castle Lanarkshire Rothwell Castle Lochindorb Castle Moray Kinclayen Castle Perthshire

Gatehouse Castles (page 9)

Kildrummy Castle Aberdeenshire Dundonald Castle Ayrshire Rothesay Castle Bute Caerlaverock Castle Dumfriesshire Lochmaben Castle East Lothian Tantallon Castle Doune Castle Perthshire

Tower-Houses of late 13th and 14th century (page 10)

RECTANGULAR: Drum Castle Aberdeenshire Hallforest Tower Dundonald Castle Avrshire Alloa Tower Clackmannanshire Torthorwald Castle Dumfriesshire Aberdour Castle Lochleven Castle Kinross-shire Threave Castle, near Castle Douglas Kirkcudbrightshire Duffus Castle Moray L-PLAN: Dunnottar Castle Kincardineshire Craigmillar Castle Midlothian

15th century Tower-Houses (page 17)

RECTANGULAR: Broughty Castle Angus Kilchurn Castle, near Dalmally Argyll Mauchline Castle Avrshire Clackmannanshire Castle Campbell, Dollar Sauchie Tower, Alloa Dumfriesshire Comlongon Castle

Gilnockie Tower (Hollows Tower) Fast Lothian Elphinstone Tower, Tranent

Balgonie Castle Burleigh Castle Cardoness Castle

Mains Castle, near East Kilbride Spynie Palace Newark Castle, Philiphaugh

Bardowie Castle L-PLAN:

Inverquharity Castle, Kirriemuir Auchindoun Castle, Glenfiddich

Neidpath Castle Cessford Castle

Niddry Castle, Kirkliston OTHER PLANS:

OTHER PLANS: Borthwick Castle Hermitage Castle Fife Kinross-shire

Kircudbrightshire Lanarkshire Moray Selkirkshire Stirlingshire

Angus Banffshire Peeblesshire Roxburghshire West Lothian

Midlothian Roxburghshire

Later (16th-17th century) Tower Houses (page 18)

RECTANGULAR: Corgarff Castle

Saddell Castle, Kintyre Amisfield Tower

Repentance Tower, Hoddam Bridge Spedlin's Tower, near Templand Craignethan Castle

Coxton Tower Aldie Castle Smailholm Tower Kirkhope Tower Midhope Tower Craigcaffie Tower

L-PLAN: Craigievar Castle

Delgaty Castle, Turriff Leslie Castle, Kennethmont Affleck Castle, Monikie Aberdeenshire Argyll Dumfriesshire

> Lanarkshire Moray Perthshire Roxburghshir

Perthshire Roxburghshire Selkirkshire West Lothian Wigtownshire

Aberdeenshire

Angus

Braikie Castle, Inverkeilor Edzell Castle

Glamis Castle Barcaldine Castle Maybole Castle

Blairfindy Castle Fordyce Castle

Lochranza Castle, Arran Scotstarvit Tower, Ceres Crathes Castle

Fiddes Castle Carduith Castle

Drumcoltran Tower

Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh Pitheavlis Castle, Perth Oakwood Tower

Castle of Park, Glenluce Dunskey Castle, near Portpatrick

Scalloway Castle

Z-PLAN: Glenbuchat Castle Midmar Castle

Claypotts Kelburn Castle

Fordell Castle Noltland Castle, Isle of Westrav

Ballone Castle ROUND:

Orchardton Tower OTHER PLANS:

Barra Castle Kellie Castle, Arbroath Dunderave Castle Killochan Castle

Luffness House Kellie Castle

Darnick Tower

Argyll Avrshire Banffshire

Bute Fife

Kincardineshire

Kirkcudbrightshire

Midlothian Perthshire Wigtownshire

Zetland

Aberdeenshire

Angus Avrshire Fife Orkney

Ross and Cromarty

Dumfriesshire Aberdeenshire

Angus Argvll Ayrshire East Lothian

Roxburghshire

Other outstanding late castles and domestic buildings (pages 19-22)

Provost Ross's House Aberdeenshire
Provost Skene's House
Telqukon Castle
Melgund Castle
Camasserie Castle, Kilmartin
Argyll
Avchans House
Rowallon Castle

Boyne Castle, Portsoy
Girnigoe Castle and Castle Sinclair, Wick
Northfield House, Preston
East Lothian

Culross Palace
Tullibole Castle

Tullibole Castle Kinross-shire

Maclellan's Castle, Kirkcudbright

Craignethan Castle Lanarkshire

Earl's Palace, Birsay Orkney
Earl's Palace, Kirkwall "

Drochil Castle Peeblesshire
Traquair House ,,

Elcho Castle Perthshire
Huntingtower "

Newark Castle, Port Glasgow Renfrewshire
Fernichirst Castle Roxburghshire
Queen Mary's House, Jedburgh "

Caerlaverock Castle

Caerlaverock Castle

Dumfriesshire

Dumfriesshire

Caerlaverock Castle

Dumfriesshire

Crichton Castle Midlothian
Stirling Castle Stirlingshire
Mar's Wark, Stirling

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A short list of Books and Papers

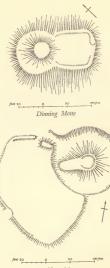
The standard reference works are MACGIBBON and Ross, Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland, 5 volumes 1887-1892; and the Inventories of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, Scotland (Caithness, Berwickshire, Dumfriesshire, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross, Kirkcudbrightshire, Mid- and West Lothian, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, Sutherland, Wiotownshire, Orkney and Shetland and Skye, Hebrides and Small Isles are published).

See also W. MACKAY MACKENZIE, The Medieval Castle in Scotland, 1927; G. Scott-Moncrieff, The Stones of Scotland, 1938, O. HILL Scottish Castles of the 16th and 17th centuries, 1953; W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON, Exploring Castles, 1958. There are many papers on individual castles and aspects of their history in Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (indexed to 1947); also Antiq. Journal (Lochan-Eilan Castle, 1937; Bastard Feudalism, 1946), Archaeo. Journal (Abergeldie, 1954), Trans. Ayrshire Archaeo. and Nat. Hist. Soc. (Dundonald Castle 1947-9), Trans. Glasgow Archaeo. Soc. (Rothesay Castle, 1937; Breachacha Castle, 1939; Castle Tioram and Mingary Castle, 1954).

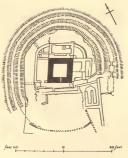
PLANS

In order to shew the relative size of comparable monuments, the plans are reproduced at two uniform scales. The first, 1:1200, is used for earthworks and for the larger castles. Smaller castles and tower-houses are reproduced at twice this scale, 1:600.

The dates on the plans refer to the works shewn in solid black, to which particular reference is made in the text.



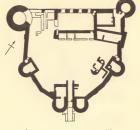
Auldton Motte



Cobbie Row's Castle. c.1145



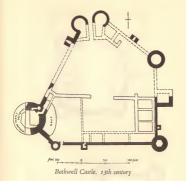
Castle Sween. 12th century



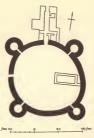
Kildrummy Castle. 13th century



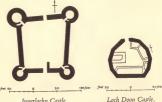
Caerlaverock Castle. Late 13th century



5



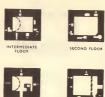
Rothesay Castle. 13th century



Inverlochy Castle. 13th century

Loch Doon Castle. Late 13th or early 14th century

FIGURE 6



feet 50 0 50 feet

FIRST FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR



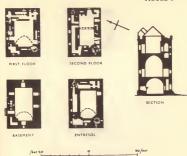
FIGURE 7







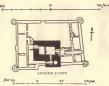
Threave Castle.
Tower, 14th century



Elphinstone Tower. 15th century



FIRST FLOOR

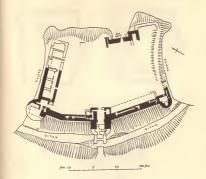


Craigmillar Castle. 14th century

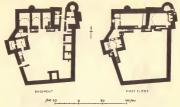




50 feet Affleck Castle. 15th century



Tantallon Castle. 14th century



Doune Castle. Late 14th century

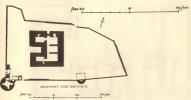


Ravenscraig Castle. Begun 1460

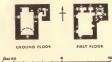
Tower-house after 1430; outer wall and tower later



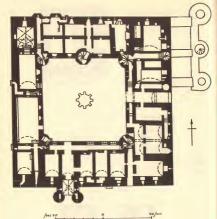
FIRST FLOOR



Borthwick Castle



Greenknowe Tower. 1581



Linlithgow Palace. 15th-17th centuries

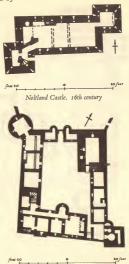


Scalloway Castle. 16th century

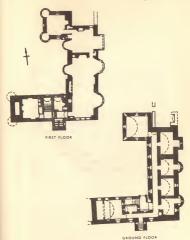




Claypotts. 1569-88



Tolquhoun Castle. 1584-89 save for N.W. Tower



Earl's Palace, Kirkwall. Early 17th century

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